

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CASABL 00217 151330Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 IO-14 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

(ISO) W

----- 113077

R 151010Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2659

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY CAIRO BY POUCH

USINT DAMASCUS BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CASABLANCA 217

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, XF, XI, MO

SUBJ: ARAB LABOR OFFICE CONFERENCE IN RABAT

REF: CASABLANCA 210

1. SUMMARY: ARAB LABOR ORGANIZATION HELD THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN RABAT MARCH 2-12. MAJOR POINTS OF DISCUSSION WERE MIGRATION ARAB LABOR AND INVESTMENT OIL REVENUES. ILO ALSO DISCUSSED, BUT QUESTION ARAB TRADE UNION BOYCOTT US INTERESTS WAS NOT. BOYCOTT IDEA NOW SEEMS DEAD. WHILE MEETING SOMEWHAT MARRED BY LIBYAN ACCUSATIONS OF MOROCCAN VIOLATIONS TRADE UNION LIBERTIES (REFTEL) PARTICIPANTS CONSIDER CONFERENCE TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESS ALTHOUGH FEW CONCRETE RESULTS EVIDENT. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 CASABL 00217 151330Z

2. ARAB LABOR OFFICE HELD THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN RABAT MARCH 2-12. THIS FIRST TIME ALO, MODELED ON TRIPARTITE LINES OF ILO, CONVENED OUTSIDE CAIRO HEADQUARTERS. MEETING FOLLOWED CLOSELY ON HEELS ICATU CONFERENCE IN CASABLANCA FEBRUARY 27-28 AND WAS WELL ATTENDED BY LABOR MINISTERS AND TRADE UNION OFFICIALS. MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT WENT TO CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO SUPPORT CONFERENCE AND GAVE IT EXTENSIVE MEDIA EXPOSURE.

3. MEETING WENT RELATIVELY SMOOTHLY WITH ONLY MAJOR INCIDENT LIBYAN TRADE UNION DELEGATE'S ATTACK ON GOM'S TREATMENT MOROCCAN TRADE UNIONS (REFTEL). ONLY OTHER SOUR NOTE WAS FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE JORDANIAN TRADE UNION DELEGATION WHICH WAS UNSEATED BY JORDANIAN UNION IN EXILE IN DAMASCUS.

4. CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION CENTERED ON QUESTION MIGRATION ARAB LABOR AND INVESTMENT ARAB OIL REVENUES. GENERAL POSITION OF MIDDLE EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES WAS THAT SKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED EMIGRE LABOR FROM THE MAGHREB COULD AND SHOULD BE UTILIZED IN THE ARAB EAST. MAGHREB STATES TOOK POSITION THAT OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES COULD NOT POSSIBLY HOPE TO ABSORB VAST NUMBERS WORKERS TRADITIONALLY EMPLOYED IN WESTERN EUROPE. ON QUESTION OF INVESTMENT ARAB OIL REVENUES, NON-OIL PRODUCING STATES GENERALLY TOOK POSITION THAT ARAB COUNTRIES WITH SURPLUS OF CAPITAL SHOULD MAKE SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT TO AID DEVELOPMENT OF POOR ARAB ECONOMIES. DISCUSSION THESE SUBJECTS WAS VERY GENERAL AND NOT ACRIMONIOUS, AND NO MEANINGFUL DECISIONS WERE TAKEN.

5. ILO WAS SUBJECT LIMITED DISCUSSION. THERE WAS GENERAL FEELING THAT STRUCTURES OF ILO HEAVILY WEIGHTED TO FAVOR WESTERN AND INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. ILO VOTING PROCEDURES WERE MUCH CRITICIZED AND THERE WAS AGREEMENT TO PUSH FOR AMENDMENT ARTICLE 36 OF STATUTES.

6. ALTHOUGH TRADE UNION BOYCOTT OF AMERICAN INTERESTS WAS ON ORIGINAL AGENDA IT WAS NOT DISCUSSED.

7. MAURITANIAN APPLICATION MEMBERSHIP ALO WAS ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY.
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PAGE 03 CASABL 00217 151330Z

8. COMMENT: THOSE DELEGATES WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED BELIEVE THAT IN SPITE LACK OF TANGIBLE RESULTS CONFERENCE WAS SUCCESS AND HAS STRENGTHENED THIS RATHER WEAK ORGANIZATION AND CONTRIBUTED (LIBYA ASIDE) TO GREATER ARAB UNITY. TONE WAS DISTINCTLY MODERATE AND IN WAKE OF ALO CONFERENCE (AS WELL AS ICATU MEETING) QUESTION OF ARAB TRADE UNION BOYCOTT US INTERESTS SEEMS DEAD.

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Message Attributes

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